

From: Michael Broggy
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:11pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I have been using home computers for nearly 20 years, now, and have been increasingly frustrated as a consumer over the past decade or so whenever the idea of purchasing a new computer came up. Every system sold seems to come with a requisite "Microsoft tax" in the form of a bundled copy of Windows which I cannot refuse or get a refund for, which is extremely unfair as I never would choose to use Windows myself. Only by building my own systems from individual components can I get around this extra cost, but that often results in a more expensive system when all is said and done, as I don't benefit from volume discounts on computer components.

I haven't had the time to look into the nuances of the settlement, but I do agree with the essay written by Dan Kegel, found at <http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html> - I have signed his petition and wanted to add my own opinion to the case, as I think capitalism is all well and good but there **are** rules and Microsoft has consistently sought to put itself on top by hook or by crook. Competition is **necessary** for progress and innovation - without it, Microsoft will seek to bleed their customers for as much money as possible without adding anything in the way of improvements with each successive version of their software.

If I were to break the law, I know I'd be punished - it seems unfair that any company or corporation can escape justice for **any** reason. They must be punished; they should be punished in such a way that they'd regret breaking the law in the first place and actions should be taken to ensure they could not do the same again.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Michael Broggy

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